

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 GABORO 01656 031537Z

46

ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 SS-15 /024 W

----- 105617

O R 030945Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY GABORONE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8627

INFO AMEMBASSY MASERU

AMEMBASSY MBABANE

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L GABORONE 1656

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, ELTN, EAIR, BC, US, RH

SUBJECT: CALL ON PRESIDENT KHAMA

REF: STATE 215933

1. SUMMARY: IN ACCORDANCE WITH INSTRUCTIONS CONTAINED REFTEL, CHARGE' PRESENTED TEXT OF SECRETARY'S PHILADELPHIA SPEECH TO PRESIDENT KHAMA ON SEPTEMBER 2. IN SUBSEQUENT CONVERSATION, PRESIDENT SHOWED INTEREST IN U.S. ELECTIONS, TIMING OF SECRETARY'S POSSIBLE VISIT TO SOUTHERN AFRICA, AND GOB'S POTENTIAL TRANSPORT PROBLEMS, ESPECILLY ROAD AND RAIL. END SUMMARY.

2. ON RECEIVING TEXT OF SECRETARY'S REMARKS, PRESIDENT KHAMA EXPRESSED THANKS AND THE HOPE THAT SECRETARY'S TALKS WITH VORSTER WILL BE SUCCESSFUL. HE ASKED SPECIFICALLY ON WHAT DATES SECRETARY MIGHT BE PLANNING TO VISIT SOUTHERN AFRICA. CHARGE' REPLIED THAT SECRETARY'S PLANS TO VISIT AFRICA WERE AS YET UNKNOWN, AND WOULD HEAVILY DEPEND ON OUTCOME OF HIS TALKS WITH VORSTER.

3. AS THIS WAS ALSO CHARGE'S INITIAL COURTESY CALL, PART OF CONVERSATION WAS DEVOTED TO NON-SUBSTANTIVE SUBJECT. PRIMARY AMONG THESE WAS PRESIDENT'S KEEN INTEREST IN U.S. ELECTORAL PROCESS, INCLUDING NOMINATING CONVENTIONS. HE ASKED A NUMBER OF SEARCHING QUESTIONS, AND CONCLUDED THAT THE U.S. ELECTIONS WERE TERRIBLY COSTLY IN DOLLARS AND IN TERMS OF THE EMOTIONAL AND PHYSICAL DEMANDS ON BOTH CANDIDATES AND WOULD-BE CANDIDATES.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 GABORO 01656 031537Z

4. PRESIDENT ASKED IF THERE WERE ANY NEWS CONCERNING THE BOT-ZAM ROAD PROJECT (I.E., GOB'S REQUEST TO HARD-SURFACE THE NATA-KAZUNGULA PORTION). CHARGE' OF COURSE COULD SAY ONLY THAT QUESTION WAS RECEIVING MOST SERIOUS STUDY IN WASHINGTON. PRESIDENT THEN MOVED TO SUBJECT OF RAILROAD, COMMENTING THAT HE BELIVED THE RHODESIANS WOULD NO LONGER PUT ANY MONEY INTO THE BOTSWANA LINE, BUT THAT THE ESCALATING WAR WOULD FORCE THEM TO CLOSE IT IN ORDER TO BEEF UP SECURITY ON THE BEITBRIDGE LINE. HE DID NOT ELABORATE FURTHER, ASSUMING (CORRECTLY) THAT CHARGE' HAD BEEN BRIEFED EXTENSIVELY ON RAIL TRANSPORT PROBLEM IN RELATION TO RHODESIA. IN CONTEXT OF GENERAL CONVERSATION ON TRANSPORTATION MATTERS, PRESIDENT DID COMMENT THAT PRESENT GABORONE AIRPORT IS BOTH DANGEROUS AND INADQUATE. IT IS TOO CLOSE TO POPULATED AREAS AND MUST EVENTUALLY BE MOVED. AT THE SAME TIME, GOB WILL NOT THROW GOOD MONEY AFTER BAD BY INVESTING IN IMPROVEMENTS TO AN AIRPORT THAT ULTIMATELY WILL HAVE TO BE MOVED. HE SAID SITE FOR NEW AIRPORT HAD ALREADY BEEN SELECTED, BUT GOB HAS NOT THE "MILLIONS" NECESSARY TO BUILT IT.

5. COMMENT: A. HAS USG EVER BEEN APPROACHED BY BOG CONCERNING CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW AIRPORT? IF WE HAVE NOT ALREADY DONE SO, IT MIGHT BE AN INTERESTING AND WORTHWHILE PROJECT FOR US TO CONSIDER (WITHOUT AROUSING UNFOUNDED EXPECTATIONS ON PART OF GOB, OF COURSE). B. URGENTLY REQUEST THAT DEPARTMENT ALLOW EMBASSY TO INFORM PRESIDENT KHAMA OF SECRETARY'S AFRICAN TRAVEL PLANS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. PRESIDENT'S SENSITIVITIES AND DESIRE TO BE IN ON THE ACTION ARE APPARENT, DESPITE HIS CAREFULLY CULTIVATED APLOMB. AS PRESIDENT ON ONE OF FOUR "CONFRONTATION STATES", HE WOULD CERTAINLY APPRECIATE EARLIEST POSSIBLE INFORMATION ON SOUTHERN AFRICAN NEGOTIATIONS. END COMMENT.

ALBERTI

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL SETTLEMENT, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 03 SEP 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976GABORO01656
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760335-0448
From: GABORONE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760994/aaaadcix.tel
Line Count: 92
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 STATE 215933
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 02 JUL 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <02 JUL 2004 by GarlanWA>; APPROVED <06 JUL 2004 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CALL ON PRESIDENT KHAMA
TAGS: PFOR, ELTN, EAIR, BC, US, RH, XJ, (KHAMA, SERETSE)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006